AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (previously presented): A data communication system comprising a server having a first storage device in which a database, which stores a plurality of data types, is formed, and a plurality of client devices for connecting to said server through a network line, wherein:

each of said plurality of client devices has transmitting means for transmitting a data read request to said server, and

said server has:

access right holding means for previously holding an access right table which indicates types of data to which an access is granted/denied for each of said plurality of client devices with respect to the plurality of the data types in said database;

device identifying means responsive to receipt of a data read request sent from said transmitting means through said network line for identifying one client device which has transmitted the received data read request of said plurality of client devices;

determining means for determining in accordance with the access right table held in said access right holding means whether or not data corresponding to said received data read request is a type of data accessible from said one client device; and

means for granting an access to the data corresponding to said received data read request in the database of said first storage device to said one client device if a result of the determination by said determining means indicates an accessible type of data.

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2.   (original): A data communication system according to claim 1, wherein said

device identifying means requests a user identification code and a password of said one client

device, and identifies said one client device in accordance with the user identification code and

the password sent from said one client device.

3.   (currently amended): A data communication system comprising a server having a

first storage device in which a database, which stores a plurality of data types, is formed, and a

plurality of client devices for connecting to said server through a network line, wherein:

each of said plurality of client devices has transmitting means for transmitting a data read

request to said server, and

said server has:

access right holding means for previously holding an access right table indicative of types

of accessible data which each user utilizing said database possesses as an access right with

respect to the plurality of the data types in said database, the access right being set for each user

in units of user groups;

user identifying means responsive to receipt of a data read request sent from said

transmitting means through said network line for identifying a user of one client device which

has transmitted the received data read request, of said plurality of client devices;

determining means for determining in accordance with the access right table held in said

access right holding means whether or not data corresponding to said received data read request

is a type of accessible data which the user of said one client device possesses as an access right;

and

means for granting an access to the data corresponding to said received data read request

in the database of said first storage device to said one client device if a result of the

determination by said determining means indicates an accessible type.

4.   (original): A data communication system according to claim 3, wherein said user

identifying means requests a user identification code and a password of said one client device,

and identifies the user of said one client device in accordance with the user identification code

and the password sent from said one client device.

5.   (canceled).

6.   (previously presented): A database access method for limiting an access to a

database in a data communication system comprising a server having a first storage device in

which the database, which stores a plurality of data types, is formed, and a plurality of client

devices for connecting to said server through a network line, said method comprising the steps

of:

holding in said server an access right table which indicates types of data to which an

access is granted/denied for each of said plurality of client devices with respect to the plurality of

data types in said database;

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upon receipt of a data read request sent through said network line, identifying one client

device which has transmitted the received data read request of said plurality of client devices;

determining in accordance with the access right table whether or not data corresponding

to said received data read request is a type of data accessible from said one client device; and

granting an access to the data corresponding to said received data read request in the

database of said first storage device to said one client device if a result of the determination

indicates an accessible type of data.

7.   (currently amended): A database access method for limiting an access to a

database, which stores a plurality of data types, in a data communication system comprising a

server having a first storage device in which the database is formed, and a plurality of client

devices for connecting to said server through a network line, said method comprising the steps

of:

holding access right table indicative of types of accessible data which each user utilizing

said database possesses as an access right with respect to the plurality of data types in said

database, the access right being set for each user in units of user groups;

upon receipt of a data read request sent through said network line, identifying a user of

one client device which has transmitted the received data read request of said plurality of client

devices;

determining in accordance with the access right table whether or not data corresponding

to said received data read request is a type of accessible data which the user of said one client

device possesses as an access right; and

granting an access to the data corresponding to said received data read request in the

database of said first storage device to said one client device if a result of the determination

indicates an accessible type of data.

8.   (previously presented): A server having a first storage device in which a database,

which stores a plurality of data types, is formed, and connected to a network line to which a

plurality of client devices are capable to connect, comprising:

access right holding means for previously holding an access right table which indicates

types of data to which an access is granted/denied for each of said plurality of client devices with

respect to the plurality of data types in said database;

device identifying means responsive to receipt of a data read request sent through said

network line for identifying one client device which has transmitted the received data read

request of said plurality of client devices;

determining means for determining in accordance with the access right table held in said

access right holding means whether or not data corresponding to said received data read request

is a type of data accessible from said one client device; and

means for granting an access to the data corresponding to said received data read request

in the database of said first storage device to said one client device if a result of the

determination by said determining means indicates an accessible type of data.

9.   (currently amended): A server having a first storage device in which a database, which stores a plurality of data types, is formed, and connected to a network line to which a plurality of client devices are capable to connect, comprising:

access right holding means for previously holding an access right table indicative of types of accessible data which each user utilizing said database possesses as an access right with respect to the plurality of data types in said database, the access right being set for each user in units of user groups;

user identifying means responsive to receipt of a data read request sent through said network line for identifying a user of one client device which has transmitted the received data read request of said plurality of client devices;

determining means for determining in accordance with the access right table held in said access right holding means whether or not data corresponding to said received data read request is a type of accessible data which the user of said one client device possesses as an access right; and

means for granting an access to the data corresponding to said received data read request in the database of said first storage device to said one client device if a result of the determination by said determining means indicates an accessible type of data.

10.   (new): A data communication system according to claim 1, wherein said server further has access right setting means for setting an access right for each of said plurality of client devices in accordance with an operation of each user utilizing said database, to form the access right table in said database.

11. (new): A data communication system according to claim 3, wherein said server

further has access right setting means for setting an access right for each of said user groups in

accordance with an operation of each user utilizing said database, to form the access right table

in said database.